

Attorney Docket No: IDF 1422 (4000-00400)

REMARKS

Applicants have received and reviewed Examiner's Office Action dated May 24, 2004.

Applicants have cancelled claims 1-10 pending in the current case, and added new claims 11-26 to more clearly define Applicants' claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit that cancellation of claims 1-10 and the addition of new claims 11-26 is proper, does not constitute new matter, and will not create an unnecessary burden on Examiner in the present case.

In the Office Action mailed May 24, 2004, Examiner rejected claims 1-10, under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,085,030 to Whitehead et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,044,379 to Callsen. Applicants respectfully submit that cancellation of the previously pending claims 1-10 obviate the rejection of these claims.

Applicants respectfully submit that newly added claims 11-26 are directed to aspects of a trader service that are not shown in the references cited by Examiner, including the Whitehead and/or the Callsen references. Specifically, newly added claim 11 is directed to a trader service with a fault tolerance wherein the trader service identifies object references in response to a request by a requestor and determines whether the object associated with the object reference is existent. Where no objects exist for the object reference, the trader service provides to the requestor the object reference even though the object is not existent. Applicants respectfully submit that support for this aspect of the trader service is provided in the specification portion of the application on about page 15 under the heading "Rudimentary Fault Tolerance". Dependent claims 12 and 13 depend from newly added claim 11 and provide additional aspects not disclosed in the references cited by Examiner. For this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11-13 are allowable.

Applicants newly added claim 14 is directed to a computer implemented method for implementing a first and second trader service with fault tolerance wherein the trader service organizes the object references into an index based on a sequence in which the object references are identified. Any object that is not existent is placed at the bottom of the index as it is checked, and each object is checked until the status of all objects have been determined. For a first existent object of the plurality of objects, the trader service provides the first object reference to the requestor. Where none of the objects are existent, the trader service provides a first non-

Attorney Docket No: IDF 1422 (4000-00400)

existent object to the requestor. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references, either alone or in combination, fail to teach, disclose, or suggest a trader service that provides an object reference to requestors of an object that is nonexistent. The trader service passes along the object reference even though the object does not exist in, which allows the requestor's error management facilities to handle the nonexistent status of the requested object. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 14 is allowable.

Claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 14 and provide additional persistence and an LDAP compliant directory service that supports the first trader service reference to the services of the second trader service in a federated manner. Applicants respectfully submit that support for federated trader services is provided in the application specification on about page 12 under the heading "Federated Trading Services". Applicants newly added independent claim 17 is directed to a computer implemented method for implementing federated trader services and includes arrangements to store persistent information where the first trader service is CORBA CosTrader specification compliant. The method further includes a storage mechanism that is an LDAP compliant directory service. The method of claim 17 further comprises the first trader service maintaining a reference link to the services of a second trader service such that the LDAP compliant directory service supports the first trader service reference to the services of the second trader service. Applicants respectfully submit that the federation of trader services as claimed in Applicants newly added independent claim 17 is allowable in view of the references cited by Examiner in the present case. Applicants newly added claims 15- 16 and 18-22, which depend from newly added independent claims 14 and 17, respectively, provide additional points of novelty that are not shown, either alone or in combination, by the cited references. For these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 15-22 are allowable.

Applicants newly added independent claim 23 is directed to a trader service that enables requestors that are not compatible with CORBA CosTrader specification compliant trader services to employ the services of CORBA CosTrader specification compliant trader services using an HTTP agent. Applicants respectfully submit that support for this is provided in the specification on about page 14 under the heading "Boot Strapping". The HTTP agent is operable to receive the description of the services requested by the non-CORBA CosTrader specification compliant requestor and communicate the description of the services to the trader service. The

Attorney Docket No: IDF 1422 (4000-00400)

HTTP agent is further operable to receive the object reference from the trader service and provide the object reference to the non-CORBA CosTrader specification compliant requestor. Applicants respectfully submit that these trader service aspects are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the cited references. Claims 24-26 depend from independent claim 23 and provide additional aspects not disclosed in the references cited by Examiner. For this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that newly added independent claim 23 and dependent claims 24-26 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons Applicants submit that the application as currently pending, specifically newly added claims 11-26, are in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests such allowance.

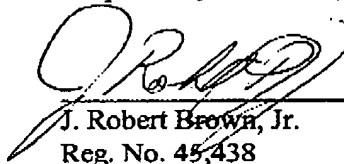
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any further fees associated with any of the foregoing papers submitted herewith, or to credit any overpayment thereof, to Deposit Account No. 21-0765, Sprint.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application as amended is in condition for allowance. If Examiner has any questions or comments or otherwise feels it would be helpful in expediting the application, Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (972) 731-2288. Applicant intends this response to be a full and complete response to the Office Action of May 24, 2004.

Date: Aug. 23, 2004

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